DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 10-31 are presented for examination.

Paper Submitted

2. It is hereby acknowledged that the following papers have been received and placed of record in the file:

   a. **Information Disclosure Statements** as received on 2008/03/25 is considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

   A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

   (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 11, 12, 14-28, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Clark et al., US Patent Publication Number 2003/0015003.

5. Referring to claim 11, Clark discloses a method of setting up a connection in a communication environment controlled by a communication system between a first node allocated to a first contact and a second node allocated to a second contact (page 1 [0004] communication among multiple communication devices used by multiple contacts), the method comprising:

   a. providing a contact element within the first node for the first contact (page 1 [0010] [0019], each user is associated with a address record), the contact element having graphic and functional properties and graphically representing the second

contact, an unambiguous identification and contact data being allocated to the

contact element (page 1 [0010] [0019] page 3 [0051], each record includes an

image and an ID) ;

   b. accessing the contact data using a program and setting up a first connection from

the first node to the communication system (page 6 [0085] page 5 [0076]);

   c. checking within the communication system using the unambiguous identification

whether the contact element is approved by the communication system for the

setting-up of connections (page 6 [0085] [0087], abstract, page 1 [0005]); and

   d. setting up a second connection to the second node depending on a result of the

checking (page 5 [0077]).

6. Referring to claim 12, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 11, wherein the

connection in the communication environment is a quasi-permanent contact connection

(page 1 [0010]).

7. Referring to claim 14, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 11, wherein the

contact element includes a first part and a second part and wherein the graphic properties

are defined in the first part and the functional properties are defined in the second part (1

[0019], a symbol is associated with each user record, page 5 [0077]).

8. Referring to claim 15, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 11, wherein the

contact data includes details about at least one of services and functions for the first

contact, and further comprising testing within the communication system the details

contained in the contact data, and clearing the functions or services for use by the first

contact depending on a result of the testing (page 4 [0068]).

9. Referring to claim 16, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 15, wherein the details includes at least one of communication services and functions provided by the second contact (page 5 [0077]).

10. Referring to claim 17, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 11, wherein at least the first contact is a user of the communication system, wherein a terminal covered by the first node is allocated to first contact, wherein the program is a user program is run by the user via the terminal in order to set up contact connections with other contacts via the communication system, and wherein the contact element is provided as a program object for the program (figure 4, page 1 [0019]).

11. Referring to claim 18, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 17, wherein the program object is in the form of one of a file and a library (page 4 [0072).

12. Referring to claim 19, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 11, wherein the second contact is a service provider, wherein the contact data includes details that are predetermined by the service provider, and wherein the second node includes a PC connected to the communication system and allocated to the service provider (page 4 [0067]).

13. Referring to claim 20, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 19, wherein the PC is a server (page 4 [0067] website is a server).

14. Referring to claim 21, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 20, wherein the contact element is displayed as a graphic element on the terminal of a user, wherein at least one of a graphic design and an animation of the element is predetermined by the service provider (page 4 [0064] icon is downloaded to allow user to connect to the website).

15. Referring to claim 22, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 20, wherein several contact elements, each allocated to a different service provider, are provided to the user for selection; and wherein a selected contact element selected by the user is installed on the terminal of the user by a drag & drop operation on the display (page 4 [0064]).

16. Referring to claim 23, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 22, wherein the display includes a desktop of the terminal (figure 4).

17. Referring to claim 24, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 11, wherein the first contact is a first user and the second contact is a second user of the communication system, a first terminal covered by the first node being allocated to the first user and a second terminal covered by the second node being allocated to the second user, wherein the contact element is provided to the first user by the second user, wherein the program is a user program installed on the first terminal and run by the first user in order to set up contact connections with the second user via the communication system, and wherein the contact element is provided as a program object for the program (page 5 [0076-0077]).

18. Referring to claim 25, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 15, wherein the details contained in the contact data are provided with parameters defining at least one of graphic and functional properties of the contact element (page 1 [0019], page 5 [0077]).

19. Referring to claim 26, Clark discloses the method as recited in claim 25, wherein the properties include at least one of properties for a graphic design, an animation, a period of validity and an intended use of the contact element (page 1 [0019]).

20. Referring to claims 27, 28, 30 and 31, claims 27, 28, 30 and 31 encompass the same scope of the invention as that of the claims 10-12, and 23. Therefore, claims 27, 28, 30 and 31 are rejected on the same ground as the claims 10-12 and 23.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

21. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

22. Claims 13 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark.

23. Referring to claims 13 and 29, Clark discloses the invention as described in claims 11 and

27. Clark does not disclose the unambiguous identification includes an encrypted serial

number. An official notice is taken that it is obvious to have the identification to include

an encrypted serial number in order to allow secure data transmission to prevent hackers

to steal personal information during the network communication.

Conclusion

24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure. Applicant is reminded that in amending in response to a rejection of claims,

the patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by

the references cited and the objection made. Applicant must show how the amendments

avoid such references and objections. See 37 CFR 1.111(c).

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Liangche A. Wang whose telephone number is (571)272-

3992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00

pm.

26. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on (571)272-6776. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

27. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO

Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call

800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Liang-che Alex Wang
April 13, 2010

/Liangche A. Wang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2453